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SUBJECT The Execution of CHOU Han

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1. CHOU Han (周 瀚) was formerly chairman of the Political Council of Changsha, Hunan, during the Nationalist regime. Just before the Communist occupation of Hunan, he, as chairman of the Political Council, supported the coup staged by CH'ENG Ch'ien in order to gain favor with the Communists. However, he was placed under surveillance soon after Changsha fell to the Communists. Through CH'ENG Ch'ien's influence, he received a light sentence of one and one-half years' imprisonment in the People's Court at Changsha.
2. CHOU Han is a native of P'ingchiang (113-35, 28-42), Hunan. In 1932 when Communist forces commanded by P'ENG Te-hui were active around P'ingchiang and when CHOU was local magistrate and commander of local volunteers corps,* he inflicted heavy damage to P'ENG's forces. This made him hated by the Communists. At the close of 1950 when the Communists conducted land reform in Hunan, they persuaded family members of the Communists killed by CHOU at P'ingchiang to accuse CHOU Han and to bring him to trial.
3. Under the guise of popular request, the Communist authority in Hunan sent CHOU Han back to P'ingchiang on 20 December to be judged by the local population. He was later executed in P'ingchiang.
4. This has given rise to considerable uneasiness on the part of Kuomintang members, who realize that any time they could be tried by "popular request."

Comment: This is probably a local Peace Preservation Corps.

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